

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A water-soluble polymer composition obtained by continuous polymerization of at least one unsaturated monomer, wherein during said polymerization at least one parameter biasing the polymerization is varied according to a recurrent pattern.
2. (Previously Amended) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the pattern is an oscillation about a mean value which can be selected at random.
3. (Previously Amended) The polymer composition according to claim 2, wherein the oscillation is harmonic or anharmonic.
4. (Previously Amended) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the following parameters is subject to variation:
 - a concentration of at least one monomer,
 - an amount of a catalyst,
 - an amount of a molecular weight modifier,
 - a pH value of a monomer solution, or
 - a composition of said monomer solution.
5. (Previously Amended) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymerization is effected on a moving support.

6. (Previously Amended) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is a co-polymer or terpolymer composition.

7. (Previously Amended) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is a non-ionogenic, anionic or cationic polymer composition.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Amended) A process for the continuous production of a water-soluble polymer composition, said process comprising
polymerizing at least one unsaturated monomer, wherein at least one parameter biasing said polymerization is varied according to a recurrent pattern.

10. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 9, wherein the pattern is an oscillation about a mean value which can be selected at random.

11. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the oscillation is harmonic or anharmonic.

12. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the following parameters is subject to variation:

- a concentration of at least one monomer,
- an amount of a catalyst,
- an amount of a molecular weight modifier,
- a pH value of a monomer solution, or

- a composition of said at least one monomer.

13. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 9, wherein the polymerization is effected on a moving support.

14. (Previously Amended) The process according to claim 9, wherein the polymer composition is powdered subsequent to polymerization.

15. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is in a powdered form.

16. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition claimed in claim 3, wherein the oscillation is undamped.

17. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the oscillation is undamped.

18. (Withdrawn) A process for treating a suspension comprising adding the polymer composition claimed in claim 1 to said suspension, wherein said polymer composition flocculates or dewateres said suspension.

19. (New) A water-soluble polymer composition, obtained by continuous polymerization of at least one unsaturated monomer;
wherein during said polymerization at least one parameter biasing the polymerization is varied according to a recurrent pattern;

wherein said recurrent pattern is an oscillation about a mean value which can be selected at random;

wherein at least one of the following parameters is subject to variation:

- a concentration of at least one monomer,
- an amount of a catalyst,
- an amount of a molecular weight modifier,
- a pH value of a monomer solution, or
- a composition of said monomer solution.

20. (New) The polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the parameter biasing the polymerization is varied at regular recurring time intervals.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

New Claim 19 has been added as supported by Claims 1, 2 and 4 as originally filed.

New Claim 20 has been added as supported at page 4, 2nd paragraph of the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-7 and 9-20 will now be active in this application. Claim 18 stands withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected subject matter.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Pezzuto for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on February 11, 2004. During this discussion it was noted that EP 0 630 909 A1 or Patel et al (US 6,103,839) fail to disclose or suggest a water-soluble polymer composition obtained by continuous polymerization of at least one unsaturated monomer, wherein during the polymerization at least one parameter biasing the polymerization is varied according to **a recurrent pattern**.

In addition, the Examiner noted that the rejections may also be addressed by including the limitations of Claims 2 and 4 in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants have added new Claim 19.